

THE REHEARSAL.

1. What *Comprehension* is. Our *Dissenters* got Above it.
2. They will give no *Toleration* to the *Church* of *England*.
3. The *Vindicator* denies that ever the *Dissenters* propos'd a *Comprehension*, or wou'd *Close* with it.
4. He despises the *Compliance* of Mr. *Baxter*, &c. And tells Us, Times are Alter'd.
5. This the Effect of so much *Indulgence* towards them. The *Wisdom* of *Holland*, as to the *Frame* of their *Legislature*.
6. They have a better way than *Tests*.
7. The folly of *Pleading Birth-Right* as to the *Legislature*.
8. No hardship in *Excluding Different Perswasions* from the *Legislature*.
9. Especially in the *Present Case*.

WEDNESDAY, July 23. 1707.

(1.) *Country-man*. I Fancie, *Master*, by what You told me of our *English Dissenters* last time, That they have the oft business of *Comprehension* in their heads. For we see they are not Content with a *Toleration*.

Rehearsal. They are got far out of your Sight, *Country-man*. You follow them but slowly. They are got above all these small *Dispensations*! What is *Comprehension* but,

To Unite Men and their differant *Maggots*.
As Long and Short Sticks are in *Faggots*.

So you may have your *Maggot*, and I may have mine. Then ther will be Peace and Quietness! will ther not?

Country-m. Unless these *Maggots* happen to *Cross-Bite* one another. As nothing so Common among *Religious Maggoteers*.

Rehears. Therefore our *Dissenters* will be as little pleas'd with a *Comprehension* as with a *Toleration*. Ther is a Sort of a *Toleration* Imply'd in a *Comprehension*. And the *Scottish Kirk* have Declar'd all *Toleration* to be *Establishing Iniquity* by a *Law*. And the *Vindicator* of our *English Dissenters* has, in their Names, Declar'd, that they are upon the same Foot with the *Presbyterians* in *Scotland*, and upon None other, as I Quoted him in my Last.

(2.) *Country-m*. Bless Us! Then if they shou'd Prevail, we shou'd not have a *Toleration* for the *Church* of *England*!

Rehears. Such as they gave you last time, and now of late in *Scotland*! And after the *Clergy* had been Deliver'd up to the *Mob*, to be Rabb'd by them at *Discretion*,

and then *Prosecuted*, *Imprison'd*, and *Banish'd* by *Law*, and *Episcopacy* totally overthrown by Act of *Parliament*, they will Prove to you, after all this (as they have done to those in *Scotland*) That it is a great Mistake to think that you were *Persecuted* at all, ther was no such thing! And that you Enjoy not only a *Toleration*, but a full and free *Comprehension*! See before Num. 81, 95, 96, 97. 103.

Country-m. I pray God keep us out of their *Clutches*. But *Master*, is it so, That they are now Grown so High here in *England* as to Despise even a *Comprehension*? Then it is Plain what they Drive at, and have in View.

(3.) *Rehears*. Their *Vindicator* says, p. 28. that *Comprehension* is a *Many-headed-Monster*. And adds, I believe the Challenge may very Modestly be Made, in the Name of the *Dissenters* in *ENGLAND*, to any Man to prove that a *Comprehension* had ever its Rise among them, or that any *Dissenter* ever clos'd with it.

Country-m. Whence then had it its Rise? Did the *Church* Propose it, and Offer it to the *Dissenters*; and did the *Dissenters* Refuse to Close with it? If so, the *Church* has been very Unjustly Charg'd with being over *Rigorous* and *Stiff* to the *Dissenters*. And the want of *Moderation* lay on the other side.

But I have heard that the *Dissenters*, once upon a Day, wou'd have been very Glad to have Gain'd a bare *Toleration*, far more a *Comprehension*. And that Mr. *Baxter* and several others of their most Famous *Teachers*, did Comply and Conform to a very Great degree, so as to shew that they thought not the *Communion* of the *Church* of *England* any way Unlawful.

(4.)

(4.) *Rehears.* The *Vindicator* answers that in this same Place, p. 28. and says, *What is the Compliance of Mr. Baxter, &c. to these things? What was then done, is near Fifty Years ago; And the State of things is somewhat Altered since that time; For 'tis otherwise now.*

Country-m. So it seems indeed! And is this all we have Got by our *Tolerating* the *Dissenters*, and *Courting* them at such a *Prodigious* rate; that they are now farther off from Us than Ever! That they *Scorn* and *Trample* upon the *Compliance* of their former *Leaders*, and are Got up to the *Tip Top* of the *Pinacle*! Are not these the *High-Flyers*?

But, *Master*, they are *Resolv'd* to let none of your Words fall to the Ground. You always told us this wou'd be the Effect of *Indulging* them, and putting *Power* into their hands. That they wou'd always *Act* according to the full *Power* they had, and make use of it to get *More*; And never *Rest* till they had the *Whole*.

(5.) *Rehears.* This was easily Collected (without the Spirit of *Prophecy*) by observing the same *Steps* by which they *Rose* to *Power* before, and at last *Engros'd* the *Whole*, both in *Church* and *State*, into their own *Hands*.

But without *Remembering* former Times, (which is now thought *Invidious*) I will *Desire* to do them no other *Wrong*, than to suppose that they are *Men*, and, if they *Please*, *Conscientious* Men. Now is no Man who is in *Earnest* with *Religion*, but wou'd wish all the *World* to be of his *Mind*. And ther is no Man but wou'd *Desire* that *Church* or *Perswasion* he is of to *Prosper*, and to *Prevail*. And wou'd *Endeavour* it by all *Lawful* means. Therefor I must still be of my own *Opinion*, That whatever *Indulgence* or *Toleration* as to *Religion* is *Granted* on Account of *Conscience*, yet that where Men of *Different Perswasions*, and *Opposite* to Each other, are *Admitted* into the *Legislature*, or to *Vote* for the *Members* of it, ther must be a *Perpetual Struggle* in such a *Frame*, and from such *Convulsions* ther is a *Continual Danger* to the whole *Constitution*. For this I propos'd the *Example* of *Holland*, where tho' ther is *Toleration* to the full as to *Religion*, yet none of a *Different Religion* from that of the *States*, have any *Access* to the *Government*, to be a *Member* of the *States*, or in the *Magistracy*. They make use of them for *Soldiers* in their *Army*, but they must not meddle with their *Constitution*. And I believe every Body will *Allow* me, and can see it at first *Sight*, That if all the *Different Perswasions* in *Religion* that are *Tolerated* in *Holland*, were *Admitted* into the *States General*, they wou'd not be so *Unanimous* as they are, nor their *Constitution* so safe.

(6.) And they stand not upon *Niceties*, how *Much* or how *Little* you *Differ* from them; Or whether you can *Occasionally Communicate* with them; Nor do they put any *Tests* to you; But if you go to any other *Communion*, they *Reasonably Conclude* that you have something nearer at *Heart* than their *Constitution*, and will not give you the *Opportunity* to *Supplant* it, by having any *Vote* in it.

(7.) The Argument of *Birth-Right*, in this Case is *Ridiculous*. For ther is not a *Country* in the *World* (*England* not *Excepted*) where Men are not *Excluded* the *Legislature*, and that merely on Account of their *Religion*.

(8.) Nor is it any *Hardship* to them. For whoever is of a *Different Perswasion* from the *Church* *Establish'd* in any *Country*, ought to think himself very well *Dealt* with, if he be suffer'd to *Enjoy* his own *Perswasion* to himself. But to *Desire* a *Vote* in the *Legislature* is manifestly saying, Put me in a way to *overturn* your *Constitution*, as far as in my *Power*, and to make all the *Parties* and *Factions* I can against it. And *Experience* has made good, and ever will make good, all that I have said. For it is *Founded* upon *Plain* and *Undeniable Reason*.

(9.) *Country-m.* Especially where a *Party* declare themselves *Ir-Reconcilable*, and that no *Concessions* will *Please* them, less than giving up all.

ADVERTISEMENT S.

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